

Twenty-ninth Annual Report
Maryland State Board
Of
Motion Picture Censors



1944-1945

Offices
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET
Baltimore-1, Maryland

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Of
Motion Picture Censors

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BENJAMIN HANCE
Chairman

ANNIE E. ELLIOTT
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

HELEN C. TINGLEY
Secretary

HELEN L. ODOM
Chief Clerk

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Receipts and Disbursements

The receipts for the fiscal year were \$55,054.00, and the expenses in operating the department were \$35,090.08, which left a balance of \$19,963.92, returned to the Treasury of the State. It is very gratifying to report such a net income with the continued decrease in the production of commercial films by reason of the demand of material required for government purposes.

Work of the Board

The films reviewed during the year have been classified; rejections and eliminations were ordered for the following statutory offenses:

Inhuman, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime	34
Indecent and immoral, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime	10
Rejected in toto (indecent)	1
	—
Total	45

The eliminations as reported above apply to feature presentations. These films are reviewed within 24 hours after they are received, and the applicant is notified at once of the decision of the Board. If appeals are taken, the film is promptly re-examined in the presence of the applicant and is finally approved or disapproved. If the applicant is not satisfied to revise the film according to the Board's directions, the right of appeal to the Baltimore City Court is legally granted. No appeals, however, were taken.

In the new films, scenes to which statutory objections may apply appear less frequently. This fact does not indicate that new films contain no objectionable material. It shows that directors have learned to anticipate these objections and use inference and implication rather than patent presentation.

No eliminations were ordered in newsreels or in documentary films showing horror and brutality incident to the progression of the war. It is the policy of the War Department that factual pictures must be shown to enable the citizens of our country to comprehend the malevolence of our enemies. Audience response as tested by our staff indicated that the public has accepted its grim education.

Community Cooperation

During the year the Board has received committees from the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Federation of Catholic Alumnae and other civic and social agencies, and was able to offer constructive suggestions to these organizations in their efforts to encourage the production and exhibition of better motion pictures. It also placed its facilities at the disposal of the Division of Juvenile Causes for the screening of a mystery picture featured unfavorably in the public press. It has instructed its inspectors to note and to report to this Division evidences of rowdyism and disorder among the children attending motion picture theatres.

The Board cooperated with a local theater during the Seventh War Loan Drive by allowing it to sponsor a motion picture premiere to be held in the screening room. The purchase of a \$1,000.00 war bond was required of each person attending the premiere. Bonds in the amount of \$35,000.00 were sold. In this connection, it can be reported that the employees of the Board have always oversubscribed the quotas assigned to it by the Red Cross, the War and Community Fund, and the War Bond Drives.

A financial statement and statistical summary are attached as a part of this record.

Respectfully submitted,

BENJAMIN HANCE, *Chairman*

ANNIE E. ELLIOTT, *Vice-Chairman*

HELEN C. TINGLEY, *Secretary*

August 31, 1945.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1945

Receipts

Fees:

Original Reels—35 MM (4,981,638 ft.)	\$11,314.00	
Original Reels—16 MM (59,981 ft.)	288.00	
(Reversible)		\$11,602.00
Duplicate Reels—35 MM (36,202,720 ft.)	41,226.00	
Duplicate Reels—16MM (176,702 ft.)	418.00	
(Reversible)		\$41,644.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (1,808)	1,808.00	
		<u>\$55,054.00</u>
Deposited to credit of State Treasurer		\$55,054.00

Expenses

Salaries:

Board Members	\$ 7,800.00	
Other Employees	22,184.84	
		<u>\$29,984.84</u>

Other Expenses:

Repairs	\$ 55.82	
Light, Heat, Power and Water	253.57	
Traveling	933.04	
Communication	646.13	
Printing	45.00	
Contractual, Film Seals	2,080.00	
RCA Inspection Service	269.88	
Office Supplies	588.63	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies	131.17	
Office Equipment	69.50	
Motion Picture Equipment		
Insurance	32.50	
		<u>\$ 5,105.24</u>
		\$35,090.08

Budget Account (Per Comptroller)

Appropriation (1945)	\$36,435.00	
Refunds (Communication, Item 206)	11.95	
		<u>36,446.95</u>
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund	1,356.87	
General Fund Disbursement		\$35,090.08

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSE-
MENTS TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNT REVERTING
TO THE STATE TREASURY

October 1, 1920—June 30, 1945

		Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting to State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21.....	\$	26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22.....		26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23.....		27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24.....		26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25.....		29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26.....		30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27.....		32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28.....		38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29.....		44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30.....		38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31.....		35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32.....		35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33.....		35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34.....		36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35.....		39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36.....		44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37.....		49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38.....		48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39.....		50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40.....		53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41.....		55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42.....		55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43.....		39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44.....		55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45.....		55,054.00	35,090.08	19,963.92
		<u>\$1,009,667.66</u>	<u>\$696,717.22</u>	<u>\$312,950.44</u>

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

July 1, 1944—June 30, 1945

	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Feet Original	No. of Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
July	146	1,182	513	2,690	429,359	3,049,289	1,325	0	3
August	185	1,293	647	3,699	543,537	3,033,872	1,475	0	3
September	125	1,237	319	3,565	262,740	2,946,203	1,356	0	6
October	171	1,245	553	3,817	447,692	3,148,266	1,414	1	1
November	158	1,296	530	3,937	436,045	3,196,173	1,453	0	1
December	171	1,328	704	3,726	495,435	3,203,941	1,498	0	1
January	157	1,227	477	3,542	393,331	2,934,635	1,376	0	8
February	123	1,135	419	3,544	337,723	2,860,910	1,257	0	1
March	176	1,354	566	3,722	459,332	2,976,254	1,522	0	8
April	139	1,161	396	2,629	332,971	2,878,830	1,296	0	4
May	151	1,251	520	3,774	428,751	3,099,321	1,398	0	4
June	163	1,291	583	3,775	474,643	3,051,728	1,450	0	4
Totals	1,865	15,000	6,227	42,420	5,041,619	36,379,422	16,820	1	44

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS

July 1, 1944—June 30, 1945

Original and Duplicate

	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July	336	226	696	65	2	3
August	320	243	778	113	2	22
September	301	201	799	51	3	7
October	346	251	690	84	8	37
November	331	253	799	62	2	7
December	350	244	794	89	1	21
January	319	215	786	51	1	12
February	295	185	695	66	3	14
March	312	252	811	134	2	19
April	305	221	705	23	6	40
May	350	189	782	67	4	10
June	340	252	793	63	4	2
Totals.....	3,905	2,732	9,128	868	38	194

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original.....	1,865	.....	.....	.....
Films, Duplicate.....	15,000	.....	.....	.....
Reels, Original.....	6,227	.....	.....	.....
Reels, Duplicate.....	42,420	.....	.....	.....
Number of Feet, Original.....	.....	5,041,619	.....	.....
Number of Feet, Duplicate.....	.....	36,379,422	.....	.....
Films Approved.....	.....	.....	16,820	.....
Films Rejected.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Films, Eliminated.....	.....	.....	44.	.....
	16,865	48,647	41,421,041	16,865